

There's Life in Dead Trees

Dead and dying trees provide food and shelter for many wild animals.

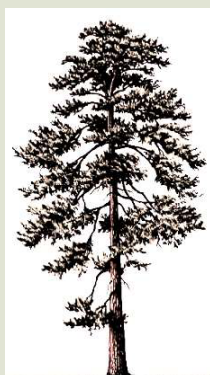
Wildlife Trees are scarce in some areas because of overharvest as firewood. Before taking a standing dead tree for firewood, consider leaving it for wildlife habitat.

As a tree dies, each stage of its decomposition plays a vital role in the feeding, breeding or housing of mammals and birds. Even if a cavity or nest is vacant, it may serve as a home later.

Standing dead ponderosa pines provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife, and cannot be cut for firewood in many areas. Please see "Special Rules" and the map inside for details.

Ponderosa pines are prevalent in low- to mid-elevations. They have thick, protective bark comprised of stacked plates like puzzle pieces. In older trees, the bark is orange in color.

Ponderosa needles come bundled in three's, and are five to 10 inches long, forming tufts at branch ends.



Ponderosa pine cones are three to six inches in length and have sharp teeth.

THANK YOU!



Check with our offices to see if fire bans are in place that may restrict the use of chainsaws.



Gathering
Firewood
for
Personal Use

San Juan Public Lands Center

15 Burnett Court Durango, CO 81301
970 247-4874

Columbine Ranger District

367 S. Pearl St. Bayfield, CO 81122
970 884-2512

Dolores Ranger District

2921 Hwy 184 Dolores, CO 81323
970 882-7296

Pagosa Ranger District

180 Pagosa St, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970 264-2268

www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan

on the
San Juan National Forest



(Revised 2016)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

How to Use Your Tags

STEP 1. Purchase tags for gathering firewood on the National Forest. Tags allow you to gather firewood a half cord at a time, if needed.

STEP 2. Tags are nonrefundable, nontransferable and valid only for the year in which they are purchased. Tags can only be used to gather firewood for personal use. Gathering firewood for resale requires a commercial-use permit.

STEP 3. Take unvalidated tags with you to gather firewood. Carry a map so you know if you are on National Forest lands. Do not trespass on private land.

STEP 4. Estimate the amount of your load and validate the corresponding number of tags (see below). Each tag is good for a half cord. Punch out the dates to validate the tag(s) as you load.

STEP 5. Before transporting firewood from where you gathered it, attach the validated tag(s) to the load in a visible manner. Be prepared to stop your vehicle so tags may be verified.

The average truckbed can carry a half cord of wood. A full cord will fit if the truckbed has extended side rails that allow wood to be loaded the height of the cab as shown here.



A full cord of wood, measures 8' X 4' X 4'.

WARNING: Validated tags are good only for the load you are transporting and may not be reused. Hauling without a tag, or with a previously used tag, is illegal. Violation of federal regulations can result in confiscation, fines and/or imprisonment.

What You Can Cut

Downed or Standing Dead Trees:

You may remove for firewood:

- Naturally dead and downed wood
- A standing dead tree of any size as long as it has no green foliage, except for ponderosa pine ~ see below*

(Firewood measuring more than 7 inches in diameter must be cut to a length of 8 feet or less.)

Live Green Oak:

You may remove for firewood:

- Live green oak less than 6" in diameter measured at the base of the tree.

Other:

You may remove for firewood:

- Downed green trees ONLY in specially designated fuels-reduction areas. Check with our offices for opportunities.

* What You Cannot Cut



Ponderosa Pine:

- No standing dead ponderosa pine (of any size) south of US Hwy 160 can be cut on the Columbine District between Bayfield and Chimney Rock Nat'l Monument.

- No standing dead ponderosa pine greater than 15" diameter can be cut across the entire San Juan National Forest.

Areas Off-Limits

(See Inside Map)



Some off-limits areas are posted; others listed below or on the inside map may not be posted, but are still off-limits.



NO CUTTING ALLOWED:

- Lizard Head, Weminuche, South San Juan, and Hermosa Wilderness Areas; and the Piedra Management Area
- Chimney Rock National Monument
- All Research Natural Areas (RNAs)
- National Forest lands surrounding McPhee Reservoir and Dolores River below the dam
- Within 100' of State Highway 145, the West Dolores Road (#535), and the Dolores-Norwood Road (#526)
- La Plata Canyon

(Please remember that USFS tags are not good on BLM lands.)



NO CUTTING ALLOWED:

- Well pads, pipelines, powerlines, active timber sales and areas being revegetated.
- Campgrounds, picnic areas, resorts, administrative sites.

OFF-ROAD AREAS

Unless otherwise posted, you can drive no more than 300 feet off a designated open road to park and load wood, but ONLY if you can do so without damaging soil or vegetation.

